



**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
June 1, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm.

Present: Mayor: Charlie Miner; Council: Jahn Dyvik, Mike Feldmann, Gina Joyce, and Deirdre Kvale

Staff Present: City Administrator: Scott Weske; City Attorney: John Thames; Public Works Director: Sean Diercks; and City Clerk: Jeanette Moeller

Absent: None

APPROVE AGENDA

A motion was made by Dyvik, seconded by Feldmann, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: all.

OPEN CORRESPONDENCE

No one was in attendance to address the City Council during Open Correspondence.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Discuss Diamond Lake Regional Trail Proposal

City Administrator Weske reviewed the basics of past proposals and concerns that have been shared about plans, location, and parking for Three Rivers Park District's proposed Diamond Lake Regional Trail. He encouraged the Council to have a candid discussion about the trail proposal.

Mayor Miner asked whether the Park Board had further discussed the trail following the last Council meeting.

Council member Joyce indicated that the Park Board had met after Three Rivers presented to the Council at the last meeting.

Council member Dyvik noted that Three Rivers Park District also held an open house but he did not think it was publicized very well because it had low attendance. He personally he had spoken to a few people about the trail proposal and their feedback was that they love what is currently in place, but have concerns about adding traffic to it. He indicated that they oppose it, at least in the Martha Lane and Symes Street section of the proposal. He noted that it appears to be a sore spot for a number of people and reiterated that he does not think there has been clear communication surrounding it.

City Clerk Moeller noted that Three Rivers District had planned to send a mailing to everyone along the corridor and had even reviewed the mailing area with the City.

Council member Dyvik wasn't sure if he had received the mailing.

The Council discussed concerns with the proposed trail location, traffic issues, parking issues, and crossing concerns in the downtown area.

Council member Joyce recalled that the discussion at the Park Board level was that the only thing the City would gain from this trail is to not have to cover maintenance costs, which are relatively minor.

Weske noted that one thing to remember is that the City paid for 50% of the existing trail and the other 50% was paid for by the County.

Council member Joyce added that there was also conversation at the Park Board about what would happen to the utilities under the existing trails if the City gave full control over to Three Rivers.

Council member Kvale stated that her understanding was that there would be an agreement and the City would still retain ownership of the trail with Three Rivers taking over the maintenance.

The Council discussed ownership, maintenance, County right-of-way, and access to utilities.

Weske stated that he feels there needs to be more discussion about pros and cons and the proposal needs to be looked at more closely to see if it will be worth it for some signs and a 20-year maintenance agreement.

Council member Kvale sought more information on what the Park Board may object to with the current trail proposal.

Council member Joyce stated that her husband, Park Board member Thomas Joyce, was the main objector, but she agrees with him. She commented that she would like to see Three Rivers put in a new trail and not just take over what the City already has in place. She noted that there were members of the Park Board who really wanted to see something diverted away from the street traffic in some of the areas. She shared some of the other thoughts and concerns shared by the Park Board, including the option for the trail to utilize Wurzer Trail rather than the Wayzata Boulevard W trail. She added that the City does not have to support any of the proposed options and could simply say, "no thank you."

The Council discussed various location options for the trail and how different options would interact with driveways and access points to businesses.

Council member Joyce mentioned that she when she thinks of a regional trail, she thinks of something like the Luce Line Trail that does not have a driveway every 800 feet.

Council member Kvale agreed that there may be a safety issue and shared the example of stop signs at driveways along trails in Minnetonka Beach.

The Council discussed the width of the proposed trail downtown. They discussed ideas for alternative locations and connections, and ultimately their interest in seeing Three Rivers come back with a different proposal that would potentially utilize Wurzer Trail and following Orchard Lane to Holbrook Park.

Council member Dyvik pointed out that their original trail proposal has already changed and it gave him cause to question what their intent is. He recalled that originally the plan was not to bring people into downtown Long Lake, but now they appear to be proposing to do so because it is easiest route.

City Clerk Moeller commented that most often with Three Rivers Park District's regional trails they seem to prefer to edge the more rural setting and follow the outskirts of the suburbs to the best of

their ability. She added that considering a new southern route that would divert the proposed regional trail away from the downtown area may limit some of the concern about people using business parking rather than the designated trail parking areas.

Mayor Miner inquired what the next step would be in the process and whether Three Rivers was waiting to hear back from the City or would communicate with the Park Board.

City Clerk Moeller noted that staff had been contacted by Three Rivers earlier in the day to ask when the next Park Board meeting would be held. She suggested that the Council communicate the feedback from tonight's discussion to the Park Board. She stated that her understanding of the Council's feedback tonight is that the lakeshore trail would not be option A, but would suggest focusing on Wurzer Trail or an alternative another southern route. She thought that she and Administrator Weske could craft an e-mail to explain the Council's thoughts.

Council member Joyce stated that she would like it to be made clear that the current options being presented by Three Rivers are not actually an option.

Council member Dyvik reiterated that there is no requirement to give them another option for a trail and the City can just say yes or no. He added that he questions their mission because they were originally going to have a north/south route through Medina and he would like to know how the new proposal meets their goal and requirements.

Council member Joyce indicated that she also doesn't think that there has been sufficient feedback solicited from the residents yet.

Review Updated Draft of Master Sewer and Water Service Agreement

Weske explained that he is looking for feedback from Council on the proposed draft master Sewer and Service Agreement. He noted that it may be possible that the agreement is presented to Orono, they may not give it consideration, and things would have to continue with the existing agreements. If that were the case, then the City would have to take a look at how to enforce the current agreements or bring those back to the table for further negotiations. He indicated that City Attorney Thames will help the City with further review and action to do so, if necessary.

Council member Kvale asked about the upcharge the Orono may be billing its residents who connect to Long Lake services.

Weske explained that under the draft agreement, the Orono billing rate would be a line item on the City's fee schedule that is approved annually. Right now, there are agreements in place that say the City cannot charge Orono residents any more than Long Lake residents. He reviewed details of the draft agreement relating to charging Orono as a commercial customer for all its connections rather than as individual households.

Council member Kvale confirmed that he was basically saying that the Orono connection and sewer rate would not be what Orono sets but would be what the City sets.

City Attorney Thames clarified that the City is not trying to remove Orono's discretion to upcharge its citizens, it is simply that the City's charging structure would treat Orono as a commercial customer and Orono would have discretion in passing utility costs through to their residents.

Mayor Miner questioned if the content of the draft agreement was realistic enough that Orono would not just look at it and dismiss it.

Thames responded that there may be things in the draft agreement that Long Lake wants and Orono will not be crazy about, which would be part of a negotiation process. He indicated he does not envision that this draft agreement is what the agreement will exactly look like when it is done. He explained that one of the things the main "asks" of the agreement is that Orono start looking long term at developing their own infrastructure and giving them time to do that. He reiterated that he expects this agreement to change significantly.

Council member Dyvik asked if there were termination dates on the current agreements.

Weske replied that they remain in effect in perpetuity.

Council member Dyvik questioned what would happen if Orono just says "no" to considering a new agreement.

Moeller noted that the City does have the ability to say no to future development connections.

Thames confirmed that the City is not without some leverage.

Council member Dyvik inquired how much more revenue would be generated annually if things move forward with how the draft agreement has been written.

Weske stated that in his best case scenario, it would generate about \$200,000.

Council member Feldmann commented that the key point is that the City is charging a rate that does not pay for itself and is essentially functioning as a subsidy to a neighboring city.

The Council discussed various aspects of the draft agreement and how things work under the current agreements.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

ADJOURN

Hearing no objection, Mayor Miner adjourned by general consent at 6:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Weske
City Administrator